

CRM at the Federal Columbia River Power System

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) coordinates with the Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division and Bureau of Reclamation Pacific Northwest Region to operate the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). The agencies share responsibility for management of cultural resources affected by hydroelectric operations. Agency leaders have committed to collaborating with the 13 Federally recognized Tribes of the Columbia River Basin in planning cultural resource management activities at the 14 FCRPS reservoirs. The agencies have also committed to funding at least \$4.3 million annually for 15 years to accomplish cultural resource compliance, with BPA power sales revenue providing most of these funds.

The collaboration is organized by hydroelectric project, or groups of projects, in "reservoir cooperating groups." Members of each group represent a unique set of participating Tribes and agencies. For example, one group works on the Corps of Engineers Portland District's three FCRPS projects: Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day. This group includes representatives of the Yakama Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, US Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife Service (wildlife refuges along the reservoirs), Corps, and BPA. The group has adopted the name *Wana-pa Koot Koot*, meaning "people along the Columbia River working together." The group has also adopted a formal structure, including Chair and Vice-Chair (both Tribal members), and a Secretary. According to the *Wana-pa Koot Koot* charter, "Compliance and implementation actions are discussed, prioritized, and planned by the members of this workgroup in a consensual atmosphere."

Recognizing the unifying effect of a group name, the Corps' Walla Walla District reservoir cooperating group (with eight tribes, three of them also in *Wana-pa Koot Koot*) has adopted the name *Payoskuus T'suukwe* (pronounced, pa-yose-koos tsook-wa), meaning "Snake River knowledge and learning." The group's reservoirs of concern include four Snake River reservoirs, Dworshak Reservoir on the Clearwater River, and McNary Reservoir on the Columbia River.

Another group, working on the Bureau of Reclamation's Hungry Horse Reservoir in Montana, includes the Flathead National Forest, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Reclamation, and BPA. The Forest implements the archeological component under the euphoric acronym HHAPI (Hungry Horse Archeological Project Investigation). There are also work groups for Albeni Falls, Libby (Lake Koocanusa), and Chief Joseph hydroelectric projects in the Corps' Seattle District. At Reclamation's Grand Coulee Dam (Lake Roosevelt), BPA and Reclamation collaborate separately with the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Spokane Tribe, whose reservations include Lake Roosevelt shoreline, and the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area.

Recent accomplishments include testing and evaluation of numerous archeological sites, erosion and vandalism monitoring, completion of the archeological inventory at Hungry Horse Reservoir, starting several Tribal oral histories and ethnographic studies. Tribal archeology staffs have performed much of this work through intergovernmental agreements. Native Americans interested in archeology are typically hired to work on field crews, with some deciding to pursue archeology as a profession. Current challenges are to continue developing the organizational structure of the reservoir cooperating groups, including charters for each group, and developing a work prioritization scheme to facilitate system-wide, long term management planning.

The groups will review their accomplishments at the second annual FCRPS cultural resource management meeting scheduled for February 1999, in Spokane, Washington. The annual meeting also provides a forum to discuss system-wide issues such as budget priorities, and potential solutions to common cultural resource management problems at the reservoirs. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

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